

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A steering-wheel arrangement comprising : a steering wheel having a first gear element; and a second gear element mounted on or mountable on a steering column; the first and second gear elements inter-engaging one another; the arrangement further comprising at least one anti-backlash gear mounted on one of said gear elements, the or each anti-backlash gear having teeth configured so as to align substantially with the teeth of said gear element upon which it is mounted, the anti-backlash gear being rotatably biased, relative to the gear element upon which it is mounted, towards a position in which the teeth of the anti-backlash gear are displaced from the corresponding teeth of the gear element.
2. (original) A steering wheel arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein two said antibacklash gears are mounted on said gear element, the two anti-backlash gears being biased in opposite directions.
3. (currently amended) A steering wheel arrangement according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein said gear element on which the or each anti-backlash gear is mounted is a ring gear.
4. (currently amended) A steering wheel arrangement according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein said gear element on which the or each anti-backlash gear is mounted is a pinion gear.

5. (original) A steering-wheel arrangement according to Claim 4, wherein the pinion gear is provided with two anti-backlash gears, the anti-backlash gears each being in the form of a plate, each plate having an aperture therein, the aperture defining portions to engage spring elements, the apertures of the two anti-backlash gears being coaligned and receiving spring elements.

6. (original) A steering-wheel arrangement according to Claim 5, wherein each spring element is of substantially "C" shape, each spring element passing through part of the aperture in one plate which engages the spring element and part of the aperture in the other spring plate which accommodates the spring element.

7. (original) A steering-wheel arrangement according to Claim 6, wherein part of the aperture that engages the spring element is an outwardly directed part of the aperture that is bifurcated and has two arcuate slots, each slot receiving part of the spring element, and the part of the aperture that accommodates the spring element, is of a generally arcuate outwardly directed part of the periphery of the aperture.

8. (currently amended) A steering-wheel arrangement according to ~~any one of Claims 4 to 7~~ Claim 4, wherein the anti-backlash gears are held in position by a retaining washer.

9. (new) A steering-wheel arrangement comprising : a steering wheel having a first gear element; and a second gear element mounted on or

mountable on a steering column; one of said gear elements being a pinion gear; the first and second gear elements inter-engaging one another; the arrangement further comprising two antibacklash gears mounted on one of said gear elements, with the said gear element on which the anti-backlash gears are mounted being a pinion gear, each antibacklash gear having teeth configured so as to align substantially with the teeth of said gear element upon which it is mounted, the anti-backlash gear being rotatably biased, relative to the gear element upon which it is mounted, towards a position in which the teeth of the anti-backlash gear are displaced from the corresponding teeth of the gear element, the anti-backlash gears each being in the form of a plate, each plate having an aperture therein, the aperture defining portions to engage spring elements, the apertures of the two anti-backlash gears being co-aligned and receiving spring elements of substantially "C" shape, each spring element passing through part of the aperture in one plate which engages the spring element and part of the aperture in the other spring plate which accommodates the spring element, the part of the aperture that engages the spring element being an outwardly directed part of the aperture that is bifurcated and has two arcuate slots, each slot receiving part of the spring element, and the part of the aperture that accommodates the spring element being of a generally arcuate outwardly directed part of the periphery of the aperture.